



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The Pacific coast pilchard fishery, which alone accounts for a fourth of all United States fishery production, will again be operated under a controlled production plan when the new season begins in August, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today.

Controls over the fishery were continued, Coordinator Ickes said, because of the need of increasing quantities of protein foods during the coming year. The War Food Administration has issued an order requiring the setting aside for Government purchase of 80 per cent of the pack of canned pilchards, or California sardines as they are generally known to consumers. The demand for canned pilchard will be substantially larger than the expected production,

During the past season, while operating under the control of the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, the pilchard fishermen landed 545,648 tons, an increase of 15 per cent over the total for the previous season. Last season's pack of 3,748,000 cases of canned pilchards represented an increase of 19 per cent over the totals of the previous year. Production of pilchard oil was up 29 per cent and that of pilchard meal was up 14 per cent.

Coordinator Ickes said that while the shortage of vessels which had hampered the industry in the early part of the war had been considerably alleviated, the continued shortage of manpower both ashore and afloat would require the maintenance of controls in order to insure maximum production and full utilization of facilities.

The new order differs only slightly from the order in effect last season. One change extends control over smaller vessels for the purpose of regulating the landings of loads of fish too small to can. Another provides for regulation of mackerel fishing which is conducted by the same vessels used for pilchard fishing and where the catch is processed in the same plants processing pilchards. The interrelations of the two fisheries sometimes require related controls.

The coordinated pilchard production plan will be administered in the new season by Hugh W. Terhune, Area Coordinator of Fisheries for California.

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